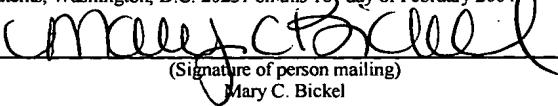


Patent Application
Attorney Docket No. PC10947A

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Hon. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this 16th day of February 2004.

By


(Signature of person mailing)

Mary C. Bickel

(Typed or printed name of person)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Desmond John Best, et al. :

APPLICATION NO.: 09/918,152

: Examiner: Mark L. Berch

FILING DATE: July 30, 2001

: Group Art Unit: 1624

TITLE: NOVEL PROCESS

:

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

MAR 2, 2004

AMENDMENT

In response to the August 26, 2003 Office Action, please amend the present application as follows.

Applicants have concurrently filed a Petition for a three-month Extension of Time, i.e., from November 26, 2003 up to and including February 26, 2004 (Two copies of the Petition are enclosed). Therefore, the present Amendment is being timely submitted.

MARKED-UP COPY OF THE CLAIMS

1. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (II):

